

**Capital:** Bishkek  
**Population:** 5.03 million (2004)  
**GDP (current US\$):** \$1.9 billion (2003)  
**Population below national poverty line:** 41% (2003)  
**GDP per capita (current US\$):** \$367 (2003)  
**GDP per capita (purchasing power parity):** \$1,600 (2004)  
**Religion:** Muslim 75%, Russian Orthodox 20%, other 5%  
**Language:** Kyrgyz and Russian are both official languages  
**President:** (Interim): Kurmanbek Bakiyev  
**Prime Minister:** (Interim): Kurmanbek Bakiyev  
**Ambassador to US:** Zamira Sydykova (confirmation expected soon.)



**National Interest:** Kyrgyzstan is important to U.S. national security and foreign policy interests due to its role in helping the United States in the global war on terrorism and the positive influence Kyrgyzstan has on stability within Central Asia. Kyrgyzstan is a small, poor, mountainous country with a predominantly agricultural economy, yet it has been one of the most progressive countries of the former Soviet Union in carrying out market reforms. USAID's focus is on strengthening democratic principles, improving public health, and fostering economic development.

#### OVERVIEW OF USAID'S FOCUS IN KYRGYZSTAN

FY05: Total FSA - \$34.3 million, USAID Total - \$26.8 million

**Economic Reform (FY 05 \$11.3 million, 42.2%):** USAID promotes small and medium enterprise (SME) development through business advisory services, accounting training, association development, and business and economics education (Pragma, Carana), support to banks and microfinance institutions to facilitate SME's access to credit (EBRD, ACIDI/VOCA, FINCA), reduction of investment constraints and customs modernization (Pragma, Investment Roundtable NGO), commercial law reform (ARD/Checchi), private land ownership (Chemonics, Helvetas, ARD/Checchi), and economic policy reform (Bearing Point). In addition, USAID is introducing better agricultural practices and expanding access to agricultural inputs in the Ferghana Valley (IFDC).

**Energy and Water (FY 05 \$1.5 million, 5.6%):** USAID's Water Users Association Support program helps farmers manage the Soviet-era irrigation network, improve on-farm water management practices, and increase agricultural production (Winrock International). Energy activities include a regional transboundary energy/water program, and pilot heating efficiency and small hydro demonstration projects (PA Consulting).

**Democracy and Media (FY 05 \$7.2 million, 27 %):** USAID democracy efforts focus on strengthening political processes and institutions (NDI, IRI), strengthening civic organizations and their capacity for advocacy (Counterpart), and expanding sources of independent information (Internews, Adil Soz). USAID elections-related assistance includes election administration, monitoring and parallel vote tabulation, political party assistance, small grants to NGOs for voter education, and media coverage. USAID also funds a human rights defenders program (Freedom House), civic education (IFES), anti-trafficking activities (Winrock), commercial law and judicial training (ARD/Checchi), legal education (ABA/CEELI), and local governance (Urban Institute).

**Conflict Mitigation (FY 05 \$1.2 million, 4.5%):** Through its Community Action Investment Program (CAIP), USAID targets multi-ethnic border communities in southern Kyrgyzstan through small-scale, community-driven projects that build the capacity for communities to deal with local conflicts before they become more serious (ACIDI/VOCA, Mercy Corps).

**Health and Population (FY 05 \$3.9 million, 14.6%):** USAID's health program focuses increasing the quality of primary care through health care reform; training of health care professionals in the implementation of the DOTS approach to the treatment TB and control of other infectious diseases; prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS; and training in better pre-natal care (Abt Associates, American International Health Alliance, Counterpart).

**Basic Education (FY 05 \$0.12 million, 0.4%):** This program provides training and resource development for 11 pilot schools, which, in turn, will serve as teacher training centers for 84 cluster schools. In 2005, more than 85,000 students will benefit from the Basic Education Program and 1200 new teachers will receive training (AED). In addition, USAID is funding the Kyrgyz National Scholarship Test, which provides a fair opportunity for school graduates to receive state grants for higher education (CEATM). The test is also used as an objective measure for purposes of admissions decisions nationwide to higher education.

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